



## **Medsaic wins BioFirst Commercialisation Award for leukaemia diagnostic**

**Sydney, Australia. 5 April 2005.** Medsaic Pty Ltd was last night awarded the BioFirst Commercialisation Award for outstanding achievement in technology for its leukaemia and lymphoma diagnostic, DotScan.

The BioFirst Commercialisation Award is given to the biotechnology company deemed most likely to achieve international success with its proof of concept technology.

The BioFirst Commercialisation Award was established as part of the inaugural *NSW First for Biotechnology Week*, instigated by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) with other governmental and private sector stake holders to raise the profile of the NSW biotechnology industry and research sector.

The Award includes financial assistance to attend the world's largest biotechnology conference Bio2005, and various consulting services covering legal, investment banking and technology advice.

"We have recently launched our first product for the diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma in Australia and are now poised to extend DotScan to the international market, so receipt of this award is very important to our commercialisation strategy. Access to the expert advice provided with the award will assist us in our efforts," said Dr Jeremy Chrisp, chief executive officer of Medsaic.

Medsaic's DotScan platform technology is a specialised product for the diagnosis of blood malignancies, solid tissue tumours and autoimmune diseases. It is the world's first rapid diagnostic for diseases such as leukaemia and lymphoma.

DotScan identifies the presence of 82 discriminatory proteins (or antigens) on the surface of cells from a sample of the patient's blood or bone marrow in a single, rapid test. Different types of leukaemia and lymphoma give a characteristic pattern, or signature, of cell capture on the microscope slide containing a microarray of antibodies.

The product will assist clinicians to achieve a better understanding of their patient's condition and to assist in management treatment. DotScan has already been assigned a Medicare rebate item number.

Companies that had received NSW Proof of Concept assistance through the DSRD BioBusiness program were eligible to apply for the BioFirst Commercialisation Award.

### **About DotScan technology**

Medsaic's proprietary 'DotScan' technology is a specialised product for the diagnosis of blood cancers, solid tissue tumours and autoimmune diseases. It is based on cell capture by microarrays of antibodies bound to nitrocellulose-coated microscope slides. The system consists of a microscope slide dotted with an array of

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specific antibodies that capture cells, a proprietary array reader to record the pattern of cell binding, and software to interpret the binding pattern that can provide a diagnosis.

Medsaic's first product, for the diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma, will assist clinicians to achieve a better understanding of their patient's condition and to provide better treatment as a consequence. The product is available in Australia and has been assigned a Medicare rebate item number.

Other products at various stages of development employ the DotScan platform technology for the diagnosis of solid tissue tumours, autoimmune diseases such as lupus, viral infections and cardiovascular disorders.

#### **About Medsaic**

Medsaic Pty Ltd was formed as a spin-off company from the University of Sydney to commercialise a new platform technology that uses antibody microarrays for the diagnosis of disease by identification of distinctive patterns (mosaics) of proteins.

The company's premises are at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney, Australia. They include laboratories, offices and clean rooms for assembly of Medsaic's diagnostic kits. Medsaic received seed funding from the University of Sydney and a major investment from Symbion Pty Ltd. It also received grants from the COMET, BIF and START schemes of the Commonwealth Government and the BioFirst program of the NSW Department of State and Regional Development. The product for diagnosis of leukaemia and lymphoma using Medsaic's DotScan technology is the first in a suite of tests under development that also includes solid tissue tumours and autoimmune diseases.

#### **For further information:**

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